United Nations S/PV.5497

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5497th meeting

Thursday, 27 July 2006, 3.40 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. De La Sablière	(France)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	China	Mr. Wang Guangya
	Congo	Mr. Ikouebe
	Denmark	Ms. Løj
	Ghana	Nana Effah-Apenteng
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Oshima
	Peru	Mr. Ruiz Rosas
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Mlynár
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-44740 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Austria, Canada and Finland, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Pfanzelter (Austria), Mr. Laurin (Canada) and Ms. Lintonen (Finland) took seats at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

After consultations among the members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

> "The Security Council is deeply shocked and distressed by the firing by the Israel Defense Forces on a United Nations Observer post in southern Lebanon on 25 July 2006, which caused the death of four United Nations military observers.
>
> "The Security Council extends its deepest condolences to the families of those victims and expresses its sympathies to the Governments of Austria, Canada, China and Finland.
>
> "The Security Council calls upon the Government of Israel to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into this incident, taking into account any relevant material from United Nations authorities, and to make the results public as soon as possible.
>
> "The Security Council is deeply concerned about the safety and security of United Nations personnel and in this regard stresses that Israel and all concerned parties must comply fully with their obligations under international humanitarian law related to the protection of United Nations and associated personnel and underlines the importance of ensuring that United Nations personnel are not the object of attack.
>
> "The Security Council expresses its deep concern for Lebanese and Israeli civilian casualties and suffering, the destruction of civil infrastructures and the rising number of internally displaced people.
>
> "The Security Council will remain seized of this matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2006/34.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.